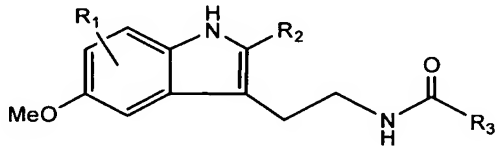
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace paragraph 0004 with:

The search for novel high-affinity melatonin ligands has led to the synthesis of numerous indole and non-indole melatonin derivatives, and the elucidation of a structure -activity relationship for melatonin binding affinity (see, e.g., Methe-Allainmat et al., *Expert Opin. Ther. Pat., 7*, 1447 (1997), and Mor et al., *Curr. Med. Chem., 6*, ~~1875~~ 501-518(~~1998~~ 1999)). The melatonin derivatives were reported to be useful for treating desynchronization disorders (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 6,180,657), and mammalian breast carcinoma in combination with antiestrogen compounds (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 5,196,435). Melatonin derivatives also have been used as an antioxidant (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 6,436,984), as well as a general anesthetic (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 6,552,064). A general anesthetic is one which causes a patient to lose consciousness. This type of agent often is referred to as a "hypnotic" agent.

Replace paragraph 0010 with:



(II)

wherein,

R_1 is hydrogen, halo, or ~~nitrate~~ nitro,

R_2 is C_4-C_{20} aryl, and

R_3 is C_1–C_{30} alkyl, C_2–C_{22} alkenyl, C_4-C_{20} aryl, OR_4, SR_4, NR_4R_5, $(CH_2)_nOR_4$, $(CH_2)_nSR_4$, $(CH_2)_nNR_4R_5$, $(CH_2)_nCOR_5$

wherein,

n is 0-10;

R_4 and R_5, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl and C_4-C_{10} aryl.

Replace paragraph 0011 with:

An illustrative embodiment is the compound of Formula II wherein, R_1 is hydrogen, halo~~, nitrate~~ or nitro; R_2 is C_4-C_{20} aryl; and R_3 is C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_1-C_6 alkoxy.